# The Corporation of The City of London
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### City of London Supports FCM Call for Continued Federal Involvement in Affordable Housing

Reinforcing a national plea by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) today in Ottawa calling on the Federal Government to implement a National Housing Strategy, the City of London urges action at tomorrow's meeting of Canada's housing ministers.

"With thousands of Canadian families struggling to find an affordable place to live and federal housing funds scheduled to end in March 2009, Canada urgently needs a renewed funding commitment and a National Housing Strategy led by the Federal Government," says FCM President Gord Steeves. "Without federal leadership and long-term funding support, these problems will continue to strain the limited resources of Canadian cities and communities, and leave vulnerable Canadians without a safety net."

As Co-Chair of the FCM Big City Mayors' Caucus Working Group on Housing, Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best agrees immediate action is needed to ensure sustainable national funding for housing, and implores all federal, provincial and territorial housing ministers meeting in Ottawa tomorrow to embrace this immediate goal.

"Unfortunately, the recent federal budget was silent on the critical issue of affordable housing and homelessness, which magnifies the terrible uncertainty for Canadians whose shelter may depend on the continuation of these programs," says Mayor DeCicco-Best. "So, our message is simple and clear - the Federal Government must end the chronic uncertainty around affordable housing and play a leadership role by committing to a long-term strategy."

"If the Federal Government fails to renew all federal housing programs before March 2009, it will result in a national funding loss of $2 billion in the coming years," say Councillor Susan Eagle, Chair of London's Council Housing Leadership Committee. "That is why this call for action to sustain federal funding is fundamental to the future livability of all cities."

For London alone, the end of federal housing funds will mean a loss of almost $2 million this time next year, and many more millions in the years ahead. In addition, the cuts may also result in a reduction of provincial-territorial spending as these federal programs include cost-sharing arrangements.